

Amendments to the Drawings:

Six replacement sheets representing formal drawings of Figures 1A through 3 are being submitted herewith. The replacement sheets of formal drawings include amendments to Figure 1A.

In Figure 1A, drive motors 100 and 102 have been added, actuator mechanism 104 has been added, and end plate 106 has been added as requested by the Examiner on page 2 of the pending office action. Applicants submit that support for the amendments to Figure 1A can be found in at least paragraphs 0012, 0013, and 0015 of the specification and in at least claims 1, 13, 15, and 18 as originally filed. Applicant submit that no new matter has been added to Figure 1A. Applicants request consideration and approval of the formal drawings by the Examiner.

Enclosures: Replacement Figures 1A - 3

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in this application. Of these pending claims, Claims 1-3 and 13-20 stand rejected; Claims 4-12, 21 and 22 stand objected to.

By way of this paper, Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, and 21 have been amended; and Claims 23-27 have been withdrawn.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

The foregoing amendments and following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding office action, and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Formal Drawings

Six replacement sheets representing formal drawings of Figures 1A through 3 are being submitted herewith. The replacement sheets of formal drawings include amendments to Figure 1A.

In Figure 1A, drive motors 100 and 102 have been added, actuator mechanism 104 has been added, and end plate 106 has been added as requested by the Examiner on page 2 of the pending office action. Applicants submit that support for the amendments to Figure 1A can be found in at least paragraphs 0012, 0013, and 0015 of the specification and in at least claims 1, 13, 15, and 18 as originally filed. Applicant submit that no new matter has been added to Figure 1A. Applicants request consideration and approval of the formal drawings by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 14, 15 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Paxton ('480) reference. Claims 1, 13, 16-18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Lee ('466) reference.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to positively recite the term "slipsheet" by adding the following language to claim 1 - ...a pair of opposing input rollers located at the entrance to the pre-compression chamber, the pair of opposing input rollers configured to advance the slipsheet into the pre-compression chamber, at least one of the rollers provided with rotational drive for advancing slipsheets to advance the slipsheet into the pre-compression chamber...

Support for this amendment can be found in at least paragraph 0013 of the specification.

Applicants submit that neither reference cited above discloses a slipsheet or a slipsheet compactor as described in claim 1. In this respect, the Paxton ('480) reference discloses a method of disposing cull lettuce while the Lee ('466) reference discloses a paper shredder. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

The remainder of the claims being dependent from claim 1 are considered patentable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is considered patentable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-12 and 21-22 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

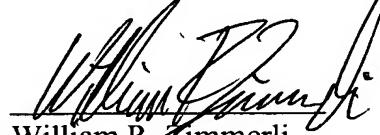
Claims 4, 5, 7, and 21 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 6, 8-12, and 22 depend from one of rewritten claims 4, 5, 7, and 21. Accordingly, allowance of claims 4-12, 21, and 22 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned in the event that a phone interview will expedite prosecution of this application towards allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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